

## REMARKS

### A. Status of the Claims and Amendments

Claims 1-9 were filed in the instant application. Claims 1-7 and 9 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Falk *et al.* (WO 91/04058). Claims 1-7 and 9 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Falk *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,850). Claims 1, 6, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Turley *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,475,795). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Falk *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,850). The specific grounds for rejection and applicants' response to them are set forth in detail below.

### B. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Falk *et al.* (WO 91/04058)

Claims 1-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Falk *et al.* (WO 91/04058). The examiner contends that the use of the term "about" is sufficient to render the claims anticipated. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been amended to remove "about" from the claims. Thus, a recitation of "greater than or equal to 750,000 Daltons" does not read on less than 750,000 Daltons. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims as amended are not anticipated by Falk. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### C. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Falk *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,850)

Claims 1-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Falk *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,850). The examiner contends that the use of the term "about" is sufficient to render the claims anticipated. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been amended to remove "about" from the claims. Thus, a

recitation of “greater than or equal to 750,000 Daltons” does not read on less than 750,000 Daltons. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims as amended are not anticipated by Falk. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**D. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Turley *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,475,795)**

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Turley *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,475,795). The examiner contends that the use of the term “about” is sufficient to render the claims anticipated. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been amended to remove “about” from the claims. Thus, a recitation of “greater than or equal to 750,000 Daltons” does not read on less than 750,000 Daltons. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims as amended are not anticipated by Turley. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**E. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over Falk *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,850)**

Claims 1-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Falk *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,850). The examiner contends that the use of the term “about” is sufficient to render the claims anticipated. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been amended to remove “about” from the claims. Thus, a recitation of “greater than or equal to 750,000 Daltons” does not read on less than 750,000 Daltons. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims as amended are not anticipated by Falk. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**F. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over Turley *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,475,795)**

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Turley *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,475,795). The examiner contends that the use of the term “about” is sufficient to render the claims anticipated. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been amended to remove “about” from the claims. Thus, a recitation of “greater than or equal to 750,000 Daltons” does not read on less than 750,000 Daltons. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims as amended are not anticipated by Turley. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

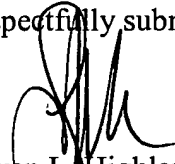
**G. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Falk *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,850)**

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Falk *et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,985,850). The examiner contends that the use of the term “about” is sufficient to bring the claim within the reach of Falk’s disclosure. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claim has been amended to remove “about” from the claims. Thus, a recitation of “greater than or equal to 750,000 Daltons” does not read on less than 750,000 Daltons, nor is it suggested by the art. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 8 be withdrawn.

**H. Conclusion**

Applicants have submitted arguments that are believed to overcome all outstanding rejections. Therefore, allowance of this application is solicited. In the event that the Examiner has suggestions regarding claim amendments or additional information that might speed this case toward allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' representative listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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